



MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET, LA REEVALUATION STUDY

- **Status:**
 - Currently assessing the environmental benefit of 8 proposed ecosystem restoration plans. A draft report will be submitted by August 2004

Sponsor:
The study is 100% federally funded, no sponsor is required

Issue:

- Many stakeholders want the channel closed as soon as a report is approved and before the IHNC Lock is built
- \$1,020m is required to complete the study, not in the President's budget

FY04 Capability: \$813,000





Project Fact Sheet

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
New Orleans District, CEMVN-PM-E
P.O. Box 60267
New Orleans, LA 70160-0267

Date: August, 2003

Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, LA (Reevaluation Study)

PROJECT AUTHORITY: The project was authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1956, Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1976, Water Resources Development Act of 1986, and Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

PROJECT SPONSOR: The project is 100% Federally funded since it is a navigation project

PROJECT LOCATION: The project is located approximately 76 miles from the junction of the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal and the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway in New Orleans, Louisiana, to the -38 foot contour in the Gulf of Mexico.

PROJECT PURPOSE: The purpose of the reevaluation study is to determine if the existing channel should be modified to allow only shallow-draft navigation, or the feasibility of continuing its maintenance. Additionally, the study is also considering ecosystem restoration and hurricane storm surge effects.

PROJECT FEATURES: None

PROJECT COSTS:	<u>Total Project</u>
Total Study Cost	\$3,000,000
Total Federal Cost	\$3,000,000
Total Non-Federal Cost	\$0

PROJECT BUDGET/SCHEDULE: Funds in the amount of \$813,000 are required to maintain the study completion schedule of August 2004. The completion schedule is based upon the assumption that there will be no funding constraints.

ISSUES: Funding to continue the study in FY04 was not included in the Presidential Budget. There are several business along the channel that would have to relocate if the recommended plan is to close the channel to any of the partial closure's proposals (12', 16' and 20' depths). A legal opinion as to whether the business can be compensated for relocations was prepared. Legislation language will be required to obtain authority to compensate.

Also, closure of the channel if the recommended plan would have to be coordinated with the completion of the new IHNC Lock in 2013. The completion date for the IHNC Lock is depending on availability of funds. Ecosystem restoration if authorized, would start prior to the Lock completion.